

DATE

Sgt. M. Laz Wilson  
15673 Confederate Ave.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70817

**Re: Louisiana Board of Ethics Docket No. 2021-786  
Advisory Opinion**

Dear Sgt. Wilson:

The Louisiana Board of Ethics, at its November 5, 2021 meeting, considered your request for an advisory opinion as to whether the Code of Governmental Ethics would prohibit you from contracting with the Baton Rouge Police Department to perform fleet camera installation, repair, and maintenance of the hardware components of body-worn cameras and in-car camera systems following your retirement from the Baton Rouge Police Department in January 2022.

### **FACTS PROVIDED**

You have been employed with the Baton Rouge Police Department for 24 years. You stated that for the past four years you have worked as a Digital Evidence Custodian in the Mobile Data Division, under the command of Lt. Matt Johnson. You stated that as a Digital Evidence Custodian, you oversee the software program used to store and manage the dissemination of the digital evidence created by Axon Body Worn Cameras (“BWCs”) and in-car camera systems (“Fleet Cameras”); organize and manage the inventory of BWCs and Fleet Cameras; direct and implement annual training for the use of BWCs and Fleet Cameras; and, manage the BWCs docking stations and offloading systems used by Fleet Cameras. Additionally, you are responsible for scheduling installation of Fleet Cameras by third-party contractors who install camera units and replace hardware components deemed inoperative.

You intend to retire from the Baton Rouge Police Department in January 2022. You would like to contract with the police department to perform Fleet Camera installation and to repair and maintain the hardware components of BWCs and Fleet Systems.

### **LAW**

**La. R.S. 42:1102(16)** defines “person” as “an individual or legal entity other than a governmental entity, or an agency thereof.”

**La. R.S. 42:1121B(1)** prohibits a former public employee, for a period of two years following the termination of his public employment, from assisting another person, for compensation, in a transaction, or in an appearance in connection with a transaction in which such former public employee participated at any time during his public employment and involving the governmental entity by which he was formerly employed, or for a period of two years following termination of his public employment, render, any service which such former public employee had rendered to the agency during the term of his public employment on a contractual basis, regardless of the parties to the contract, to, for, or on behalf of the agency with which he was formerly employed.

### **ANALYSIS**

La. R.S. 42:1121B(1) prohibits a former public employee, for two years after they terminate their public employment, from 1) assisting a person in a transaction involving their former agency in which they participated at any time during their public employment, and 2) contracting back with their former agency to provide the same service they provided as a public employee. Based on the information provided, you currently oversee the installation and maintenance of BWCs and Fleet Cameras, but you do not actually install or maintain the cameras. After you retire, you would like to sell, install, and maintain BCWs and Fleet Cameras for the Baton Rouge Police Department. Therefore, after you retire, you would not be providing the same services you provided during your employment with the Baton Rouge Police Department as a Digital Evidence Custodian. Additionally, it does not appear that you would be assisting another person as defined by La. R.S. 42:1102(16), for compensation, in a transaction in which you participated at any time during your employment with the Baton Rouge Police Department, since you will be contracting directly with a governmental entity to provide a service.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Board concluded, and instructed me to inform you, that La. R.S. 42:1121B(1) would not prohibit you, following your retirement from the Baton Rouge Police Department, from applying for a vendor license to contract to perform installation, repair, and maintenance of the hardware components of BWCs and Fleet Systems.

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts as presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics. The Board issues no opinion as to past conduct or as to laws other than the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics, the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act, the Lobbyist Disclosure Acts, and the conflict of interest provisions contained in the Louisiana Gaming Control Law. If you have any questions, please contact me at (800) 842-6630 or (225) 219-5600.

Sincerely,

**LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS**

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Gregory L. Thibodeaux  
For the Board